

Vote Helps Vital Government Services Continue

WASHINGTON – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) today voted to avoid a government shutdown and fund the federal government for another two weeks. The vote takes place as Congress continues to debate spending through the end of the fiscal year.

Today's vote continues to fund the federal government and reduces spending by \$4 billion by cutting programs largely deemed obsolete by President Obama.

“While it will take action by the Senate and a signature by the President, today’s vote lays the groundwork for 77,000 seniors and nearly 13,000 children in my district to continue receiving their social security checks, and will ensure that 41,853 veterans can continue to receive care at the VA,” said Slaughter. “While it doesn’t solve the big questions about how to reduce the deficit, it does give us more time to debate the important spending questions that affect this country. I continue to believe that we must reduce the deficit through targeted cuts, but not in a way that puts America at a strategic disadvantage for years to come and hurts those struggling the most in this tough economy.”

It stands in stark contrast to H.R. 1, the first attempt at a continuing resolution that passed on a largely partisan vote. Passed by the House in the early hours of Saturday, February 21, H.R. 1 would impose devastating cuts to vital programs to Western New York including Community Development Block Grants, the Low Income Heating Assistance Program, high-speed rail grants, programs that support the Great Lakes, local arts and humanities programs, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and vital efforts that assist women with family planning services and fight violence against women.

During a floor debate on that resolution, H.R. 1, Slaughter said

“Unlike some within the majority, the American people are not looking to completely cripple the federal government and leave the nation to the corporate elite. Americans have repeatedly expressed the desire to make smart investments in our national

priorities that leave our country more competitive now and into the future. I stand today with the American people.”

This week it was [reported](#) that the majority Continuing Resolution, H.R. 1 which Slaughter opposed, would eliminate a whopping 700,000 jobs nationwide. This alarming number is credited to Moody’s chief economist Mark Zandi, who was an advisor on Senator John McCain’s presidential campaign. Zandi’s report comes on the heels of a similar analysis by Goldman Sachs which predicted the proposed cuts by Republicans would slow economic growth by as much as 2 percentage points in the second and third quarters of this year.